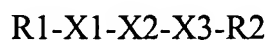


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-92. (Canceled).

93. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by Formula VIII:



wherein:

X1 is θ , Ala, Gly, β -Ala, Tyr, D-Tyr, Asp, or hydroxyacetyl;

X2 is θ , Ala-Gly-T4c-Pro, Ala-Sar-Hyp-Pro, Ala-6ring-, Ala-Asn, D-Asn-D-Ala, D-Asn, γ Abu, Gly, Ala, D-Ala, β -Ala, Pamh, Asn, or hydroxyacetyl;

X3 is Tyr, D-Tyr, Gly, Pamb, or Phe;

R1 is H or Ac;

R2 is OH, wherein the OH represents the C-terminal acid of X3; or

R2 is NH₂, wherein the NH₂ represents the C-terminal amide of X3;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

~~provided that X1 and X2 are not both θ ; and wherein said compound has an amide formed with the C-terminal carboxylic acid, or wherein the C-terminal amino acid of said compound exists as the free carboxylic acid.~~

94. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr.

95. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Asn.
96. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Gly.
97. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr and X2 is Asn or Gly.
98. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 93, wherein X1 is hydroxyacetyl and R1 is H.
99. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr, X2 is Asn or Gly, X1 is hydroxyacetyl, and R1 is H.
100. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 99, wherein X2 is Asn.
101. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is OH, wherein the OH represent the C-terminal acid of X3.
102. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is NH₂, wherein the NH₂ represents the C-terminal amide of X3.

103. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH₂, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH₂, and Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

104. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

105. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- (a) a compound of claim 93 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and
- (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

106. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein the compound selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH₂, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH₂, and Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

107. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH₂, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

108. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein said composition is in a form suitable for oral or parenteral administration.

109. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 108, wherein said form suitable for oral administration is an enteric tablet.